

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*John 10:11 I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 But he who is a hireling and not the shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away. And the wolf catches them and scatters the sheep. 13 The hireling flees, because he is a hireling and does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the Good Shepherd, and I know those that are Mine, and I am known by those who are Mine. 15 Even as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep.*

When I was young, my family and I used to enjoy a good wrestling match. It was the days of Hulk Hogan, Shawn Michaels, Jericho, the Undertaker, Randy Savage, and so forth. Whenever a match was about to start, there was always this warning: Do not try this at home. In other words, the stunts performed were dangerous and should not be tried out by an armature.

Do you know that life is way too dangerous to try it alone. You need someone to go with you, someone who has your back, someone strong enough to fight with and for you. This morning, I want to talk to you about **THE GOOD SHEPHERD**.

You and I need a shepherd to go through life because without one, life can be impossible. Jesus is the shepherd I am talking about this morning.

Last week He told us that He is the door to the sheepfold, but today He is saying, He is also the good shepherd.

When someone walks up to you and say, “hey mate, I want you to know that I am a good friend”, something jumps right at you, doesn’t it?

It’s either this person is just cocky and is out to draw some unwarranted attention or there is something you need to really pay attention to.

Now, here we have Jesus asserting Himself to be a good shepherd, not just one of those shepherds roaming around.

- You need to understand who this good shepherd is, and you need to know what difference it makes to have Him as your shepherd.
- So what did Jesus mean when he said, He is a good shepherd? You see, He needed to create a proper distinction from all other shepherds. There are shepherds that are not good at all, shepherds that don’t deserve a following – this could be the social media advisors, friends that seem to know it all, certain talk shows, some village elders, some employers etc.

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- There are shepherds out there that you can no trust with your life.
- When danger comes, they flee, when life gets tough, they are not there for you.
- What places Jesus in His own category and why should we forsake all other shepherds and follow the good shepherd?

### **1. He protects the sheep with his own life.**

- What shepherd do you know that has ever died for his sheep, very rarely indeed but here we have one who did that.
- The ordinary shepherd runs away in the face of danger, the ordinary shepherd looks out for his own skin when a lion is approaching the flock.
- But listen to what the good shepherd said:

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- At some point you and I were facing the teeth and claws of the dragon, we were like sheep without a shepherd.
- The devil was playing ping pong with us, tossing us, abusing us, and harassing us at will.
- But when the time was right, the good shepherd came and rescued us from the snare of the enemy. When the good shepherd arrived, the snare of the enemy was broken.
- Jesus laid down His life for the sheep and He keeps on doing it, every day of our lives.
- Jesus bought you by His precious blood and you are owned by Him – He protects what He owns.

*Exodus 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

- Jesus the Passover lamb provides immunity against the attacks of the devil.
- His blood covers you when you are driving to work, it covers your children when they go to school, this good shepherd protects you when you are asleep.
- The good shepherd nurses the injured sheep, He kneels down and bandages your wounds.

*1 Peter 2:24: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.*

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- When the sheep is out and about and one gets lost, the good shepherd will pursue after it.
- Sheep has a bad tendency to get lost and this shepherd is very patient – He leaves the 99 and go look after the 1. This is how good He is – many shepherds would give up on the stray sheep, but not this one.
- How good is your shepherd?

### **2. He supplies all the needs of the sheep.**

- The good shepherd has a way of finding the best pasture for the sheep. There are shepherds who will expect the sheep to fend for themselves, but not the good shepherd.
- What needs do you have today, get under the good shepherd and He will supply all your needs.

*Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*

- David was a shepherd, and he had a true comprehension of the nature of a good shepherd.
- He is telling us that when you have a good shepherd, you must stop worrying because he has you covered. He had never seen sheep die under the guardianship of a good shepherd.
- The big idea of this psalm is this “*I shall not want*”, in other words “*I shall not lack a thing*” – Jesus as a good shepherd makes provision for His flock.
- God can provide whatever is needful in your life. A person who has a revelation of Jesus as a good shepherd does not worry about a thing.
- Because the Lord is your shepherd, you will not lack money, you will not lack good health, you will not lack peace, you will not lack a spouse, you will not lack promotion.

*2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

*Psalms 34: 10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*

### **3. He guides the steps of the sheep.**

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- Every time a sheep steps out of the sheepfold, that sheep is in danger of getting lost in the jungle or in the desert.
- Many times, we know how to go out, but we don't know how to get back. Every sheep needs guidance out there and who has been guiding you all along.
- Guidance is an important part of ones life – to guide means to receive help and advice about how to do something or how to deal with a situation.
- You receive guidance from a knowledgeable person, from someone who knows something better than you.
- When you take a game drive on a safari, you are usually accompanied by a tour guide. This is a knowledgeable person, who guides you through the game drive.
- The good shepherd is all knowing and He will lead you out and order your steps.

*Psalm 23:2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

- His guidance will lead you into a place of calmness and peace – when your heart is at peace, most of the time the shepherd will be guiding you.
- Whenever you feel rushed and there is a “dispeace” in your heart, usually the good shepherd is not involved.
- The good shepherd leads in the right path that will take you to your destiny. There is always a right path for everything you are going through. When the good shepherd leads you, He will not allow you to stray out of it because He always finishes what He starts.
- The key to receiving guidance from the good shepherd is to hear and obey His voice. Sometimes the confusion in our lives is not because the good shepherd has failed but it is because of a failure to hear His voice or His instructions.

*John 10:14 I am the Good Shepherd, and I know those that are Mine, and I am known by those who are Mine... 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

- Whilst the shepherd is good and knows where the sheep should go, the sheep must be positioned to receive the guidance.
- The sheep must learn to walk close enough to the good shepherd to learn His voice and How He speaks.

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- The sheep must grow to know the shepherd and the question is, do you know the voice of the shepherd.
- The last thing that the good shepherd wants is to drag you along but because He loves you so much, there are moments He has to drag you into the right path.

*Psalm 32:8 (8-9) I hear the Lord saying, "I will stay close to you, instructing and guiding you along the pathway for your life. I will advise you along the way and lead you forth with my eyes as your guide. So don't make it difficult; don't be stubborn when I take you where you've not been before. Don't make me tug you and pull you along. Just come with me!"*

#### **4. He is forever present with the sheep.**

- I have had of a certain mother being charged with child abandonment – she was so negligent as to leave a child unattended, resulting in the child injuring himself.
- This is not the type of shepherd we have. Ours is an ever present shepherd. His eyes are on you 24/7/365 days. There is never a time that He is not present.
- You see, not seeing His activities does not signal His absence. Do you actually believe that He is always present?

*Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

- David faced a lot of danger and more often than not, he was very close to death itself. But he says that even in those darkest moments of his life, he remained calm because he was aware of Jehovah's presence.
- Fear comes when you lose sense of His presence in the moment. That is why we must always focus our eyes on Him.

*Psalm 121:4 He will never slumber nor sleep; he is the Guardian-God for his people, Israel. 5 Jehovah himself will watch over you; he's always at your side to shelter you safely in his presence. 6 He's protecting you from all danger both day and night.*